

Message Text

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TAGS: ECRP, PFUR, OAS, EC
SUBJECT: CERP 0007: FIELD EVALUATION OF OAS PROGRAM, 1977

REF: 76 QUITO 8805

1. COUNTRY PRECEPTION: DURING THE 1970'S, ECUADOR HAS FACED GROWING REQUIRMENTS AND NEED FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW IN PRACTICALLY ALL ASPECTS OF ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. THE GOE IS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THIS PROBLEM AND IS CONSTANTLY SEEKING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM ALL POSSIBLE SOURCES. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED REFTEL, MISSION HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DETECT SPECIAL GOE INTEREST IN OR ATTENTION TO THE COOPERATION THAT OAS PROVIDES.

2. ALSO AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE OAS IS CONSTRAINED TO WORK ONLY ON PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD (NPB), AND THESE TEND TO BE GRAB-BAGS OF MINOR ODDS AND ENDS. THE OAS CLAIMS THAT THE MAIN OBSTACLE IS THAT THE NPB DOES NOT PROPERLY COORDINATE WITH THE GOE AGENCIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NPB HAS INFORMED MISSION OFFICIALS THAT IT TAKES THE OAS AN UNUSUALLY LONG TIME TO PROCESS ANY REQUEST FOR SERVICES OR TRAINING FROM THE GOE. MISSION BELIEVES THAT BOTH PHENOMENA COMBINE TO REDUCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OAS ACTIVITIES IN ECUADOR.

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3. MISSION PERCEPTION: THE MISSION MAINTAINS REGULAR CONTACT WITH OAS AND OTHER DONORS AND IS WELL INFORMED ABOUT THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH THE GOE. DURING CY 1977 OAS COOPERATION IN ECUADOR COVERED TWO MAIN ASPECTS:
(A) TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR GOE PROFESSIONALS; AND
(B) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO GOE AND SEMI-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS.

4. OAS TRAINING PROGRAMS COVERED SUBJECTS SUCH AS REGIONAL AND URBAN PLANNING, EDUCATION, COOPERATIVISM, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH SERVICES AND AGRICULTURAL SERVICES. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES OF THE OAS INCLUDED FIELDS SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHERIES, EDUCATION, HUMAN AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, LABOR, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL SERVICES. TOTAL OAS EXPENDITURES IN ECUADOR AMOUNTED TO US\$1.3 MILLION.

5. FROM THE LISTING OF FIELDS COVERED BY OAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING PROGRAMS IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THEY DO NOT OPERATE IN THE CONTEXT OF A COUNTRY STRATEGY, BUT RATHER THE OAS REACTS TO ISOLATED REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GOE AGENCIES, CHANNLED THROUGH THE NPB, ON A FIRST-COME-FIRST-SERVED BASIS. THUS, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MEASURE WHETHER OR NOT OAS PROGRAMS HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON ECUADOR'S DEVELOPMENT. THE MOST PLAUSIBLE ASSUMPTION IS THAT THEY DO HAVE SOME BENEFICIAL IMPACT, BUT ON A HIT-AND-MISS BASIS, WITH THE BENEFITS FAR LESS THAN THEY WOULD BE IF THE PROGRAMS WERE FINELY-FOCUSSED TOWARDS WELL-CONCEIVED OBJECTIVES.

6. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, MISSION STILL BELIEVES THAT THE OAS SHOULD MAKE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO DEVELOP SOME KIND OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE STRATEGY AND CONCENTRATE IN JUST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A FEW FIELDS OF ACTIVITY WHERE IT COULD MAKE BETTER USE OF THE SCARCE RESOURCES AVAILABLE.
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